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King's Widow Thinks U.S. Caused Death

Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Martin Luther King's widow said yesterday that his assassination apparently was caused by a government conspiracy and that investigations into the slaying should be reopened.

"I don't have the facts, but at this stage I say it appears there was a conspiracy in the death of my husband," Coretta King said.

"The way he was documented and followed around by Hoover and the CIA when he was abroad, it would have to have been attached to the forces of our government that felt he was a threat to the system as it existed."

She referred to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and to the late FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover.

Mrs. King is on a three-nation African tour.

Mrs. King was commenting on the review ordered by Attorney General Edward Levi of the FBI investigation of King's shooting death in 1963. James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the killing in Memphis, Tenn., and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

The FBI has acknowledged that it undertook a harassment campaign to discredit King but has concluded that Ray acted alone in King's assassination. Levi ordered a review of the investigation of King's death in light of the harassment campaign but said he still believes the investigation was thorough.

Associated Press